

B. Amendment to the Claims

Please cancel claim 22 without prejudice or disclaimer. A listing of all claims is provided.

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) An optical element having a film on its surface, said film comprising at least one layer of silica containing fluorine, wherein a refractive index of the layer or layers of silica for F_2 laser light is 1.60 to 1.80.

20. (Previously Presented) The optical element according to claim 19, wherein said film further comprises a layer of a material selected from the group consisting of MgF_2 , LiF , and Na_3AlF_6 .

21. (Previously Presented) The optical element according to claim 19, wherein said element is comprised of fluorite.

[22. (Cancelled)]

23. (Previously Presented) The optical element according to claim 19, wherein said film is an antireflection coating.

24-25. (Cancelled)